Mysore Zoo

2607. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether a number of rare species are dying in the Mysore Zoo.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken for the protection of rare species and to add new species and animals to make the zoo more attractive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) According to the report received in Central Zoo Authority, 15 animals of rare species died in Mysore Zoo during the year 1995-96.

(b) The reasons of death reported to be are disentry, pneumonia, pericarditis, respiratory diseases, gastroenteritis, septicaemia, hepatitis, anemia, accidental fall, old age and senility.

(c) Following steps are taken for protection of rare species and to make the zoo more attractive.

(i) Financial assistance has been provided for improving the housing, upkeep and health care of animals.

(ii) Zoo is allowed to acquire new animals through exchange programmes, breeding loan and as gifts.

(iii) Emphasis is now being given to provide a better quality of life to the animals in the zoo instead of increasing the number of species, as per the modern concept of zoo management.

Smuggling of Flora and Fauna

2608. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware that large scale collection of India's rich and rare flora and fauna by foreign countries and multinationals is going on in our forests;

(b) if so, the extent of loss as a result thereof and the steps being taken to prevent this gene plunder;

(c) whether permission is granted to multinationals to collect our flora and fauna;

(d) whether any species are completely extinct due to this plunder; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) The Government has not received any such information/complaint on the matter. The Government is actively considering a legally enforceable instrument for regulating transfer of genetic material.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Road on China - Nepal - Bangladesh Border

2609. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether a plan to construct a 1600 km. road (Parsarvarti Path) from Bareilly (U.P.) to Amingaon (Assam) was prepared in 1963 after the Chinese aggression on in 1962 in the interest of the national security;

(b) if so, whether the project has been completed so far;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps being taken to complete the missing lines;

(e) whether the Government are considering to construct an alternative national highway parallel along the borders of China-Nepal and Bangladesh from the strategic point of view; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to construct the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project stands completed in the 4th Plan Period, as intimated by Ministry of Surface Transport.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Subsidy on Tractors/Drip Irrigation

2610. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are providing Susidy to the Farmers to purchase the Tractors and to implement Drip Irrigation system for the agriculture purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scheme is benefiting only the big farmers of a selected areas.